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## The Daily Press.

HONGKONG, July 3rd, 1900.

In view of the important statement made in our telegram yesterday that the Boxers had made preparations for a general rising in September next, when they calculated on numbering some eight million adherents, including the regular troops, and that the Peking-fu affair precipitated matters unduly, it is curious to read in a Washington despatch to the Times on the 1st of last month that it was hinted in diplomatic circles in Washington that the sudden increase observed in the activity of the Boxers was part of a well-conceived plan by one of the great European Powers to secure a permanent lodgment in Peking and seize a position, giving it full control of the Peiho river. The opinion was also held, it appears, that the plan proved abortive owing to the alertness of the other European Powers, but particularly to the readiness of Mr. Curzon and Rear-Admiral Kuper, which at once gave the movement an international aspect, and so tended to prevent the nation concerned from aggrandising itself at the expense of the interests of the other nations. It was thought that the excitement would soon abate and the rioters vanish away; so much so, that when Mr. Curzon, the United States Minister in Peking, called that the arrival of the guards for the Legations had improved the situation, and that Peking was much quieter, though the Boxers were still active in the neighbourhood, his words carried conviction with them. The scene is indeed a different one now from what might be imagined from the pictures which the Ministers drew for their home govern-

ments. The persistent under-rating of the strength of the Boxers has brought its Nemesis. Of the conduct of the Ministers in persisting in remaining at Peking and throwing the responsibility for their safety on the Imperial Government, it may certainly be said that it is grave, but in the present circumstances it is foolishly. If Prince Tuan is at the head of affairs now—probably actual Emperor, the telegram says—there is no power likely to restrain the Manchu-anti-foreign party. Even the Empress Dowager with her pretended Boxer-suppressing edicts has vanished, and a worse enemy to foreigners has taken its place. When she threw away the reins of power we do not know, and it is therefore impossible to say whether it was under her rule or that of Prince Tuan that the unfortunate Baron von Ketteler, once, as we show elsewhere, a familiar figure in Canton, met with his death at the hands of the Chinese troops. It matters little, however, who is directly responsible for the murder; all the members of the palace clique are tarred with the same brush, and all must pay for the acts of their party. This they will soon commence to do. Already they have against them 14,000 troops, provided with an ample supply of guns of an excellent quality. Our new Indian troops cannot well reach Taku before the beginning of August. But the force before which Admiral Seymour's 2,000 could but give way will very shortly be confronted with a far more numerous and a better equipped force, who, we may be sure, will press on with all the haste possible. The situation at Peking is unfortunately so grave that we cannot feel certain, until the allies reach the city, that they will not be too late; for the story that the Ministers had consented to leave under Chinese escort seems to be disposed of by the news of their declaration that they will remain at their post. This sacrifice to a principle, though heroic, may in the worst event deal a heavy blow to the Governments whose representatives they are. But we will hope that their courage will impress even the anti-foreign fanatics who follow Prince Tuan's lead.

While engaged in building operations yesterday at the Naval Yard, a Chinese workman fell off a scaffolding on to his head. Death was instantaneous.

The Return of Visitors to the City Hall Library and Museum for the week ending 1st July shows that the former institution was visited by 343 non-Chinese and 133 Chinese, the latter by 186 non-Chinese and 1,843 Chinese.

In the 48 hours preceding noon yesterday there were reported 29 fresh cases of plague and 18 deaths in the colony. During last week there were 98 cases of plague (63 in Victoria) and 88 deaths. Of other diseases there was only a case of enteric fever, which ended fatally.

A Chinaman who had had a drop too much lay down in a truck on the Praya on Sunday night and went asleep. He was awakened by rolling off the truck and falling heavily to the ground. He sustained injuries which necessitated his being taken to the Hospital.

Mr. D. M. Crawford, of Messrs. Laps, Crawford and Co., Hongkong, who was on the Empress of India on his way to Japan, fell down the hold of the tender to the Empress on Saturday night at Shanghai, and was carried senseless to the Hospital. The latest account, we are pleased to say, are to the effect that he is doing well.

Yesterday afternoon Mr. G. J. W. King offered for competition at the office of the Public Works department two lots of Crown Land. The first lot—Lot No. 332, situated at Shaikwan—was bought by a Chinaman for \$450, the upset being \$273. The second lot—Garden lot 9, situated in Peak Road—was sold to Mr. H. Humphreys for \$20 above the upset, the latter being \$181.

The pamphlet "Mountings of the Naval Guns and their subsequent use with the Ladysmith Relief Column" will be ready at the end of this week. The coloured maps, six in all, and the eight illustrations, have necessarily taken much time to lithograph. The book will be on sale next Monday at the local booksellers or may be ordered in advance at the office of the Daily Press.

At the Harbour Office yesterday, before Mr. Basil Taylor, Stephen Smith and Henry Foster, firemen on board the steamer *Dynamarth*, were charged with disobeying the lawful commands of the master, Captain S. Fowler, and also with being drunk and incapable at Meiji on the 22nd ult. At 5 p.m. on that date the defendants went after drink and assaulted the Chinese steward. They refused duty and had continued to refuse duty ever since. They were each sentenced to 14 days' hard labour (or until the ship sails) and forfeited 40 days' pay.

At the Magistracy yesterday a barber named Sui Hing was charged with cutting and wounding another barber named Chik Tin. The complainant said he and the defendant were employed at a barber's shop at 20, Wing Kat street. Between seven and eight o'clock on the morning of the 25th ult. he was shaving a customer, and the defendant and another assistant were at leisure. A customer came in and he told the defendant to shave him. The defendant objected. They then argued, and the defendant struck him with a razor, inflicting a serious wound in the side. He had been in the Hospital ever since. Another assistant corroborated the defendant, who had nothing to say, was sentenced to six months' hard labour.

The following appointment has been made at the Admiralty—Commander F. C. A. Ogilvy, to the *Terrible*, to date May 28th.

The *Iphigenia*, cruiser, Captain H. M. Dudding, was paid off at Portsmouth on 8th inst. into the "B" Division of the Fleet Reserve.

It is announced from Washington that military orders have been issued ordering the despatch of military attacks at Peking to Tokyo.

Baron and Madame de Kuster arrived at Singapore from home by the *Tonkin* on the 25th ult. The Baron has assumed duties as Russian Consul at Singapore.

The *Koto Chronicle* reports that our Governor Sir H. Blake, delivered a lecture on "Moral Science and Chinese Affairs" at the Shimokita Middle School on the 19th inst. He left Shimokita for Kyoto the same day.

The troubles in China seem to have affected Formosa. News is published about a junk smuggling a large quantity of arms and ammunition to a place on the coast in the neighbourhood of Taku, and about symptoms of renewed disturbance in the neighbourhood of Kagi. The Authorities are said to be acting vigorously.

The Chinese Minister to the United States, Wu Ting Fang, in an address which he delivered at the Women's Medical College of Pennsylvania, strongly advised women physicians to go to China, where he assured them that anyone who had sufficient skill and knowledge in the art of healing was freely allowed to practise, irrespective of nationality, sex, or creed.

The Dutch cruiser *Hollant*, which arrived in the harbour on Sunday, was built at Amsterdam in 1886 at a cost of £235,700. Her displacement is 3,900 tons, her draught 17 ft. 8 in., and her deck armour 2 in. thick. Her armament consists of two 5.9 quick-firers, six 4.7 guns, four 2.3, eight 1.4, four muzzle-loaders, and she has four torpedo-tubes. Her speed was 19.6 knots on her trial trip.

A new crew has been detailed at Darouport to recommission Her Majesty's gunboat *Eck* on the China Station. The *Eck* has already been twenty years in China, and her machinery is reported to be in fairly good condition. Her hull, however, is much worn, and in need of extensive repairs, and this is to be done by private contract at Shanghai. The new crew for the *Eck* took passage to China in the cruiser *Argonaut*.

Baron von Kotteler, the German Minister, who is reported murdered by the Chinese troops on the 13th ult., came out to China in 1893 and became a student interpreter in 1891. Afterwards he was interpreter at Canton and in 1899 he distinguished himself, in company with certain other residents, mainly German, in the putting down of the riot in Shantung which broke out on the 10th September owing to the killing of a Chinaman by an European. In 1891 he was made Secretary of the Legation at Peking. There he remained until 1891, after which he was appointed German Minister to Mexico. He married a rich American lady, and in 1893 returned to Peking as Envoy Extraordinary and Minister Plenipotentiary. He was a good Chinese conversationalist and spoke the Peking dialect very fluently.

## SAD ACCIDENT IN THE HARBOUR.

A MAN'S HAND BLOWN OFF.

A sad accident took place to a picnic party at Capatmoon on Sunday afternoon. Mr. H. E. Mackenzie, of the East Point Sugar Works, losing his right hand. Mr. Mackenzie and four or five others were in a boat unadvised, preparatory to having a swim. Mr. Mackenzie had a dynamite cartridge in his hand, and he proposed throwing it into the water so that he and his friends could dive after the fish stunned thereby. He accordingly lit the fuse, and the cartridge exploding prematurely blew off his right hand and slightly injured two or three other men in the boat. The arm was at once bound up, and Mr. Mackenzie was taken to the Hospital, where the hand was amputated above the wrist. We are pleased to say that he is doing well. Much sympathy is felt for Mr. Mackenzie on account of the calamity which has befallen him.

## SERIOUS LANDSLIP YESTERDAY MORNING.

SIX LIVES LOST.

As the result of the recent heavy rains several landslips have taken place in different parts of the colony, but fortunately in the majority of cases they were not attended by any serious consequences.

Yesterday morning, however, shortly before five o'clock, an embankment behind some houses in New Street near the Tang Wa Hospital, gave way and knocked down the back walls of houses Nos. 4, 6, 8, and 10 New Street, no less than seven people being buried among the debris. Nos. 6 and 8 seemed to have suffered most damage. Acting Deputy Superintendent McKis and a party of police were soon on the scene clearing the earth away. Their task was by no means an easy one and was not free from danger, as the earth from the embankment continued to come down while they were engaged in searching for those who had been buried.

They ultimately rescued a woman from No. 6. One of her legs was broken, and she was sent to the Hospital. At No. 8 three dead bodies were recovered later on—two boys (one eight and the other nine) and a young man 20 years of age. Two men and a woman were in the same house, and their bodies were recovered later on.

## TELEGRAMS.

"DAILY PRESS" SERVICE.

THE CRISIS IN CHINA.

[FROM OUR CORRESPONDENT.]

SHANGHAI, 2nd July, 8.20 p.m.

## MUKDEN CHRISTIANS

MURDERED.

The Mukden Mission and Hospital have been burnt down. The native pastor and Christians have been killed.

London, 1st July, 7.15 p.m.

## BRITISH AND GERMAN BRAVERY AT TAKU.

A Mutual Breeze reports that the conflict of Commander Stewart, of H.M.S. *Algerine*, and Capt. Lyle, of the *Britis*, at the bombardment of Taku, was magnificent and elicited the admiration of the allied ships.

## LARGE FORCES NOW ON LAND.

The forces now ashore number 11,000, with 53 field guns and 36 machine guns.

## GRAVE SITUATION AT PEKING—MURDER OF THE GERMAN MINISTER CONFIRMED.

By the courtesy of H.E. the Governor, we are enabled to publish the following telegram received yesterday afternoon from Admiral Bruce:

"The position at Peking is desperate. The German Minister has been killed by the Chinese troops and most of the Legations and Customs buildings are burnt."

## GENERAL NEWS.

London, 1st July, 7.15 p.m.

## GREAT CATASTROPHE TO GERMAN LLOYD CO. AT NEW YORK.

The Northlander Lloyd Company's pier system at New York has been entirely burnt. The liners *Saville*, *Main*, *Bremen*, and *Phoenicia* are total losses. The *Wilhelm der Grosser* has a wonderful escape. The probable number of casualties is 500, and the damage amounts to ten million dollars.

[The *Saville*, *Main* and *Bremen* belong to the North German Lloyd and the *Phoenicia* to the Hamburg-America Line. They are all big boats, the gross tonnage of the *Saville* being 5,267, the *Main* 10,200, the *Bremen* 10,825, and the *Phoenicia* 6,741.]

## THE CRISIS IN CHINA.

[FROM OUR SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT AT THE FRONT.]

## THE CAPTURE OF THE FORTS.

## THE "TERRIBLES" ARRIVE IN TIME.

## THE NAVAL GUNS AGAIN USEFUL.

Taku, 22nd June.

History has once more repeated itself—the Taku Forts being again bombarded and captured by the forces of combined English and French. The fight took place last Sunday, 17th inst., being commenced at 12.45 p.m. by the Chinese, who had refused to accede to the ultimatum issued by the admirals for the handing over of the forts by 2 p.m. that day. The forts were bombarded by the smaller ships of the combined fleets, the water being too shallow for the larger vessels to get sufficiently close to join in the attack. Each Power sent a storm-party on shore, who, as soon as the naval firing ceased, attacked the forts from the rear and carried them at the bayonet's point. The British naval brigade being the first to hoist their flag. Seeing that the Russians were hard pressed, our forces immediately went to their assistance and assisted to carry the fort assigned to their contingent, each foreign brigade having been allotted a specific duty, to lessen the confusion which must happen in attacks of this kind.

Considering the strength of the position and the heavy modern ordnance used against them, the casualties of the combined forces were light—only just over 100, including one killed and nine wounded in the British brigade. During the engagement a Russian gunboat received a shot through one of her boilers, causing an explosion and wounding a large number of the crew. H.M. destroyer *Whiting* also received a shot through her bunker, which put her out of action but injured no one. The *Fane* captured four Chinese destroyers, at this juncture, shooting those who resisted, while the majority jumped overboard. The captured craft were distributed, the Russians, French, Germans, and British taking one each as a memento of the action.

As the British commander-in-chief's communications had been cut off from the interior, and Tientsin threatened, it was absolutely essential that these forts, which command the entrance of the Peiho River, should be in the possession of the combined forces, and used as a base for future operations.

The ships at present at Taku are the *Algerine*, *Aurora*, *Barfleur*, *Centurion*, *Endymion*, *Fane*, *Orlando*, *Terrible* (British); *Rosina* (Russian); *Hertha*, *Kaiserin Augusta*, *Hebe*, *Defon* (German); *Neidhart* (U.S.); *Deffrecaesteus* (French); *Zenta* (Austrian); *Elba* (Italian); and five Japanese.

Capt. Bailey of the *Aurora* and Capt. Burke of the *Orlando* are in Tientsin. Capt. Warrender is moving up with the relief column. Capt. Callaghan of the *Endymion* is attending to the landing and transport. Capt. Jellicoe is with Admiral Seymour.

Later.  
It appears that the English Admiral had with him a composite force of British, Russian, French, Germans, Americans and Japanese, consisting of about 2,000 men, one half of whom were Bluejackets and Marines from our fleet. Taking 250 rounds of ammunition per man, they proceeded by rail from here en route to Peking on the 13th inst., but on getting through Tientsin found that the railway had been destroyed in several places, which caused considerable delays. Time being of the utmost importance the Admiral decided to leave the railway and proceed by road, since when nothing has been heard from him, although no real anxiety is felt for the safety of the force under his command. After the capture of the Forts Tientsin was occupied by the combined forces, Captain Bayley (H.M.S. *Aurora*) being in command of the Naval Brigade at that place, but communication was cut shortly after the town was occupied, although news got through each way by runners. Intelligence came through yesterday that they had had severe fighting in the place, and were being bombarded by heavy guns from war-junks as well as from the land. Reinforcements were urgently needed, guns being especially asked for and apparently much wanted. The *Terribles* arrived yesterday with 400 troops on board from Hongkong, having made a quick passage up; her timely arrival enabled a relieving force to be at once sent to their assistance and Tientsin was probably saved from horrors that would have culminated those that occurred in the "Matiny" days. During the cruiser's passage, Captain Scott mounted several 12 pdr. quick-firers similar to those which have already done such good service in South Africa, and to-day some of these guns with a Naval Brigade from that ship landed for service on shore. This crew will have a unique experience, taking part in two campaigns whilst both are still proceeding; having provided the greater portion of the Naval Brigade for the relief of Ladysmith, they will know well how to duplicate that performance.

Owing to absolute lack of transport, and the railway to Tientsin being partially destroyed, great difficulty is experienced in moving up supplies and guns. Details of the taking of the forts was obtained to-day, which show how stubborn was the resistance offered by the rebels.

LOCAL DEFENCE.  
The "Deutsche Compagnie" started on Saturday is commanded by Mr. Armin Haupt, head of Meichers and Co. He was commander of the German Corps at Shanghai, previous to his departure from that place. The *Hontouans* are Messrs. Wacker, of Carlowitz and Co., and A. Muller, of Bornemann and Co. The non-coms are Messrs. A. Buns, of the East Asiatic Trading Co., A. Berg, of Sismen and Co., C. Wibel, of Meyerling and Co., and W. Stang, of Meichers and Co. All officers and non-coms have been in the German Army. They were elected on Saturday last. The first drill took place last night at the Club Germania. Arms and a nominal supply of ammunition will be supplied by the police. In case the forces have to be called out, the members will be sworn in as special constables, as it would require a special ordinance to allow them to enlist as volunteers, the latter force being only open to the British.

THE NEW TERRITORY BOUNDARY.  
The staffs at the police stations near the boundary of the New Territory are being still further strengthened by the addition of European and Indian constables. The lawless character of the neighbourhood of Sam Chun are getting more and more threatening.

TRANSPORT OF INDIAN TROOPS TO CHINA.  
The P. and O. steamers *Ballaarat* and *Carthage* have been chartered by the Government of India to convey troops for the China Expedition. The steamer *Ballaarat* is expected to leave Bombay on July 5th.

THE RETURN OF THE "HINSANG."  
The *Hinsang* returned from Taku yesterday morning bringing with her from Chefoo a missionary lady named Mrs. Brown and her children (from Peking) and some 15 or 16 Hongkong children who were at school at Chefoo.

Our readers will remember that the *Hinsang*, which had been chartered by the military authorities, left Hongkong on the 15th ult. with 500 troops, etc., for Taku. Major St. John being in charge. When nearing Amoy she encountered a heavy sea, and it was deemed advisable to put in at Amoy. She remained here from four o'clock in the morning and left in the evening. The weather was no better when she resumed her voyage, but in view of the urgent nature of her errand it was decided to get on. She went through the Haitian Straits, and lay to for a short time between the islands. A good deal of fog was encountered in the gulf of Peshili, and a heavy mantle overcast the spot where the U. S. S. *Oregon* came to grief.

On the 22nd June, she cast anchor about six miles from the anchorage of Taku. On the 23rd and 24th the troops, etc., were taken on board a smaller steamer—the *Shanghai* (owned by Messrs. Butterfield and Swire) and by her landed at Taku. The *Hinsang* left Taku on the 24th, and the following day (Monday) put in at Chefoo, taking on-board the refugees mentioned above on the Tuesday. During the

night it was discovered that the Chinese at Chefoo had mounted two guns and made extensive entrenchments. The *Hinsang* called at Weihai-wei and then came straight on to Hongkong, experiencing very dirty weather. She will probably go north again on Wednesday with ammunition and stores.

She passed men-of-war all along from Taku to Chefoo, and the officers on board were struck by the fine appearance presented by the Russians. Some of the British ships appear to have been practically derelict of men in order to swell Admiral Seymour's relief column.

THE CASE OF THE WOUNDED.  
The *Japan Mail* says:—The fact that the wounded of all nationalities have been sent to Sasselo for treatment in a Japanese hospital, evidently attests strongly to the sentiment of this nation as well as to its instincts of hospitality. Several of the leading Tokyo journals, alluding to the incident in warm language, heartily approving the action of the Powers, and promising that nothing shall be spared to make the wounded comfortable and to provide for their skillful treatment. It is wisely suggested that the hospital ships of the Red Cross Society, the *Hakata Maru* and the *Kure Maru*, should be despatched at once to Taku, so as to take off any invalids of the allied forces. There will certainly be many apart from the wounded, need of medical assistance, and even if suitable accommodation were available at Taku, which is not the case, the climate there at this season renders the place quite unfit for hospital purposes. This incident constitutes an illustration of the great value that Japan would possess as an ally in all Far Eastern disturbances. People generally think of her dock-yards, her colonies, her troops and her ships when they estimate the assistance she could give, but they forget her hospitals, though these are a very important feature.

HOW LONDON VIEWED THE CRISIS LAST MONTH.  
The Chinese Minister in London when approached, stated that he had not received any intelligence from China for three days, and was totally in the dark regarding the accounts appearing in the Press. Sir Halliday Macartney, the English Secretary to the Legation, regarded the rebellion as extremely grave, though he was hopeful that its suppression would be speedily brought about. The real danger of it spreading lay in the fact that a country like China always had within it large numbers of inflammable people accessible to the swaying of the fanatics, he said, was directed against no nationality in particular, and certainly not against the English. It was the white man generally they disliked.

In the City the news from China was taken very quietly. Eastern authorities were disposed to regard the situation as much less alarming than it appeared. The rebels may be more or less described as a mob, which should be easily overcome by a properly disciplined military force. Similar outbreaks have occurred before and been suppressed without much difficulty. These risings usually collapse as suddenly as they make their appearance. There is generally little or no cohesion amongst the rebels in China, but if would not be safe to assume that the disaffected portion of the population would hesitate to unite against the foreigners, whom many of them regard as their common enemy.

On 30th May, the six per cent. Chinese bonds of 1905 were put down a point, and the Four and a Half and the Six of 1898 and 1896, respectively, declined each, but there was really no apparent reason, beyond that of sentiment, why these loans should be affected. They are well secured, and both Germany and England would doubtless be able to enforce their rights if the occasion required.

## HONGKONG VOLUNTEER CORPS.

## "D." INFANTRY COMPANY.

The final shoot for the Captain Forbes' Cup took place at the Kowloon Range on Saturday, June 30th, in very hot weather. The cup was won by Corporal Ritchie, the following scores being registered:

Names.	20 Yds.	300 Yds.	600 Yds.	800 Yds.	Total
Corporal Ritchie	25	25	25	18	100
Private Watson	25	25	25	18	90
Private May	25	25	25	18	90
Pte H. E. Mackenzie	25	25	25	18	90
Lieut. Skinner	25	25	25	18	79
Private Andrews	25	25	25	18	78
Private A. Mackenzie	25	25	25	18	73
Captain Forbes	25	25	25	18	72

## CHINA IN THE HOUSE OF COMMONS.

## RUSSIA AND COREA.

On the 29th May, Sir E. Ashmead-Bartlett asked the Under-Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs, having regard to the fact that Port Hamilton was evacuated by Her Majesty's Government in 1887 in consequence of a formal pledge given by the Russian Government on Nov. 5, 1886, that Russia would under no circumstances occupy Korean territory, and that this pledge was formally quoted by the then Under-Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs to that House of July 10, 1894, as binding, and again as holding good on July 13, 1895, whether he could state what events had occurred since that date to diminish the binding character of the Russian promise of 1886, whether the Russian Government had offered any explanation of their breach of this pledge to Her Majesty's Government, either directly or indirectly, whether a Russian armed force was now in occupation of the Korean territory recently ceded to Russian at Masampo, and whether Russia intended to fortify this land.

Mr. Brodrick: I have already explained to the House that the recent agreement between the Russian and Korean Governments has no reference to sovereign right, but to a concession similar to that which the Japanese Government has obtained within the area of the Treaty Port of Masampo. We have no information as to the presence of any armed force on the side granted for a coal depot or of any intention on the part of the Russian Government to erect fortification there. The assurance given by Russia in 1886 was not an assurance given by Her Majesty's Government but to another Power (Prussia) Opposition cheers. What steps Her Majesty's Government would think it right to take in case of the policy indicated by this assurance being abandoned is a question which cannot be answered until circumstances arise affecting the rights or interests of Great Britain.

Mr. T. G. Bowles: Was it expressly stated that it was on the faith of the guarantee given by Russia that the *Albatross* was sent to evacuate Port Hamilton?

The Under-Secretary: I am sorry that I have not the exact date of the evacuation of Port Hamilton.

Mr. W. Williams: Why don't you go on with England? Because you are afraid? (Laughter.)



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## SPORT AND ANECDOTE.

## BY AN OLD FOGGY.

## FROM THE SHELTER OF THE PAVILION.

Just before the end of the football season arrived we had a spell of pleasant April weather. The mercury danced up joyously to summer heat, and on every hand utterances of complaint were heard as to the incongruity of playing a winter pastime under such conditions. Maybe the grumble was justified, but May—yes, the merry month of May—has altered all that, for extra thick woollen garments have proved most acceptable to our cricketers, and extra wraps and overcoats have been donned with alacrity by those favoured with the shelter of the pavilion. Of course, one likes to clamour to the roof or into the garden seats in front of these always picturesque structures when the sun shines through the living day, and the gentle breezes fan our cheeks pleasantly. We need little of the shelter of the pavilion when Queen's meadow is with us. But when the ground, sun-dried, rain-charged cloudbanks come sweeping along in front of a chill east wind that almost sets one's teeth on the clatter—ugh!—then it is that the big windows are closed, the doors swing to, and a corner, free as possible from draughts, is selected to watch them at play outside. Then it is that from cosy nooks one listens respectfully to the enunciation of the Ancient One, who patters learnedly about Fuller Pitch, William Clarke, and the rest of that glorious old school—cricketers, my boy, who were cricketers!—Anon the doings of the Lancashire team are passed in review and one and all express unfeigned pleasure that little Johnny Briggs has been upped to English cricket. Then comes gossip in its turn upon the astonishing batting feats of Tom Hayward, which at once instilates comparisons, and forthwith a dozen or more prominent cricketers find champions. R. E. Foster, who earned unflinching fame last season by assisting (with his brother W. L.) to make a new cricket record, has been doing wonderful things for Oxford University—three centuries of over 100 in succession is a remarkable feat in these days—and the mention of the captain of the Dark Blues quite naturally brings to mind the ill-luck of his soldier brother in South Africa, just now stricken down with fever at Bloemfontein.

Between the showers there has been plenty of time to gossip of the batting and the bowling averages, and the splendid start Lancashire have made in the county championship tournament. Not very far have we to travel down the list of leading batsmen before we discover many famous names at present amongst the missing. In all probability the compilers of these more or less interesting tables of statistics will have a different tale to tell in the course of the next few weeks, for batsmen of the class of Ranjitsingh, "Bobby" Abel, Shrewsbury and the averages, to say nothing of "the Old Man." This with all respect. But there are some whose names will be missing for months yet not the least famous being the dashing Major Peere, the hero of 1899. When we old fogies do get together on a rainy day in the pavilion it is curious how readily one or the other drops into a reminiscent mood, and while it is sometimes very enjoyable to conjure up memorable matches, together with the doings of bygone giants, the recollection of the Lyttons and the Steels, the Studds and the Walkers, the Graces and the Christophersons, the Shaws and the Moxleys, the Emmetts and the Duffs, brings home very forcibly to one now and then how swift is the flight of time. All the foregoing names come readily enough to the comparative young follower of the game, but if they have dropped out of England is producing players well worthy of upholding the best and brightest traditions of the game. It is satisfactory indeed to glance down the list of men who have already this season commenced to make cricket history. Foster I have already referred to; next in order comes Hayward, whose batting this season has been as near perfection as we can hope to see it. For the ordinary average-grabber and they are really very few in first-class cricket to-day your true cricketer has no sympathy. As after as not the severest criticism of the "stone wall" comes from the "looker-on," who probably has never made a dozen runs in a game in his life. Still, he pays his sixpence at the turnstiles, and expects money worth in hard-earning, and lively cricket. As much as anyone I want to see the crowd pleased, entertained, and, if you will, instructed, but at the same time, we do not need too much glorification of mighty hitter and rapid run-getter at the expense of the true science of the game, and it is to such brilliant exponents as Hayward we have to look to keep up the standard set up by players of the calibre of Richard Daff, A. P. Lucas, and Arthur Shrewsbury. I am heartily pleased to see another grand young player forging his way ahead in the Eastern Counties, viz., Percy Perrin, who is certainly in the first dozen best batsmen in the country to-day. I take no undue notice of his fine average, but I do admire the methods by which his runs have been obtained. But suppose we make another story of this.

## THE COMING RACE.

There are few more joyful sounds to the fabled watcher of football than the merry, musical clang of the pavilion bell calling the men out to play on the opening day of the county cricket season. From that moment henceforth until the golden harvest has been garnered in the declining days of August, and sometimes even a bit later than that, every over sent down in first-class cricket is duly recorded in the impenetrable pages of dear old "Wisden." Let me but have my "Wisden" and I care not who makes the scores or takes the wickets. But every year marks the falling out of the rank and file every season the sorting of some star. Thankful should we be, then, that now comes time to fill the void, that our prestige in future encounters is in the hands of capable representatives. Few more capable are there than Percy Perrin, the stalwart champion of Essex. Unlike the gallant Major Peere, who burst upon us with meteoric brilliance, Perrin has climbed the ladder of fame gradually, and to-day stands on one of its topmost rungs. From the tall, slender wispy of a youth who a few seasons ago won his way into the team by sheer merit, he has filled out into splendid proportions, and at once arrests the eye as a supple, well-trained athlete. Possibly his association with another elegant batsman—A. P. Lucas—may have had something to do with developing a style that will cause many a bowler to leave a sigh before the bony blue swallows skim southwards again. It is not every tall, well-proportioned cricketer who is endowed with the facility for making the most of his height and reach—William Gann has always been held up as a model by expert judges in these respects—but Perrin gives full scope to every inch of his stature and yet wields the bat with an easy grace that charms everyone. One of the strongest points about Hayward's batting is that he plays at the bat itself, and not at the spot where it might reasonably be expected to be. No batsman can do this without considerable self-restraint and perfect eyesight, and there can be no doubt that the success of "Ranji" depends to a large extent upon this wonderful gift of quick eyesight, together with the adaptability of timing the stroke at the psychological instant. Yes; English cricket is all the richer for Perrin's presence. Another splendid actor who has not been equalled in the making, as I am afraid some few of our amateurs are, is A. O. Jones, the old Bedford School boy, and now captain of the North XI. I like Jones's cricket, no matter whether he is batting, bowling, or fielding. One can see at a glance that he is in earnest. And here I should like to digress just for a moment. In penning these few lines in appreciation of this old Cambridge University player—for he gained his blue after leaving Bedford—the thought at once occurs to me of his splendid service he has for years rendered to Rugby Union football—it is no secret that he is simply hoisted at Leicester—and in calling to mind a few prominent names upon that our Rugby Union roller-ball players invariably play dashing cricket. "Anly" Stidham, "Sammy" Woods, "Mike" Mitchell, A. O. Jones, and J. F. Byrne will at once bear out the impression. To see the North skipper in the long fight when there is work to do is to see the perfection of fielding, and it is a moot point whether Captain Wyward, Gann, or Tidyland—admittedly great in the country—excel him in any one particular, so refreshingly keen is he on the ball. If one closes to be hypercritical, some exception might be taken to his crouching attitude when posing before the ball is delivered, but there can be no exception taken to the brilliancy of his strokes when he does hit—which, fortunately for his side, is decidedly frequent. For some little time Norths cricket has been under a cloud—a "Wilfy" Flowers, a Barnes, a Selby, or a "Dick" Attwell is not to be picked off the hedgerow—but it is possible that under the guidance of this dashing young Rugby Unionist we may see the fortunes of the lace county in the ascendancy once again.

AN AUSPICIOUS BEGINNING.  
But if the prospects of Norths are improving, what shall be said of those of Lancashire? Of course, it does not come within my province to refer in detail to the four opening engagements, but I may be excused the remark that if they gallop over their opponents in this style very much longer they will institute a fright amongst a few of the wicket-keepers. It was a glorious start, to all intents and purposes, and one can readily forgive a few verbal pyrotechnics being let off, but there is a rather long and a rather difficult row to hoe ere the championship for the year has been gained. And what of the players themselves? Less than twelve months ago all eyes were turned sympathetically towards that bony lump of artlessness, Johnny Briggs, many and fervent were the wishes uttered for his safe and speedy recovery. What do we find to-day? Why, "Johnny" taking all ten wickets in one innings! On with the game, then; let joy be unconfined. May he long be spared to rub the ball in the dust, pass the time of day pleasantly with the batsmen, and bow them out with that beautifully child-like twinkle in his eye! Really, with such a performance as that just mentioned to his credit, I am not quite sure whether he ought not to be numbered amongst the coming race. It seems to me that a side able to get its opponents out cheaply stands a much better chance of gaining premier honours than the strongest of batting sides with no bowling to command. If the bowlers get a turn this season, they will do the game. The growth of "improvers" about just now, and should any proportion of them get a finger in the management pie comparisons of present day cricket with that of our fathers will be rendered all night impossible. A wet summer would wash away a tolerable number of suggested reforms. But I must not depart too far from my text—the auspicious start of Lan-

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